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John Allen Chalk: Personal Correspondence

John Allen Chalk

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7-16-1970

From/To: Carl Ketcherside (Chalk's reply filed first)

Carl Ketcherside

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July 16, 1970

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Mr. Carl Ketcherside  
Mission Messenger  
139 Signal Hill Drive  
Saint Louis, Missouri 63121

Dear Carl:

Your beautiful letter of July 6 came at a very appropriate moment. Thank you so much for sensing some of the agony that we have experienced in the last few months. It meant a great deal to have you speak so openly and directly to our unique situation. It is obvious that you have trusted the Lord in some unbearable situations and found out of his power a way that they could be bearable, could be accepted with grace. Thank you for your direct personal and badly needed testimony.

I count our friendship a very special one and appreciate so genuinely your encouragement.

Fraternally yours,

John Allen Chalk

JAC:lc

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*W. Carl Ketcherside*

MISSION MESSENGER  
139 SIGNAL HILL DRIVE  
SAINT LOUIS, MISSOURI 63121

July 6, 1970

Mr John Allen and Sue:

This requires no reply but I felt prompted of the Spirit to say a word or two in thinking about your gracious letter which came today. It seems to me that one of the tests of the depth of faith is the ability to survive anywhere, on a lonely ~~desert~~ isle, in the midst of a Communist domain, on a foreign field where one stands almost alone -- and in the institutional church. If we become imbued with a sort of pride in our own insight and accomplishment and desert our brethren who need us most, simply because they have created structures which seem to stifle, we might not really make it anywhere else.

Our relationship is personal. It is vertical. It is the response of a soul crying out for God and receiving answers, not necessarily verbal or tangible, but answers which fill the recesses of the inner being and flow through the cracks with warmth of life and make you know that this is for real. With such a relationship one can be in any kind of situation and not falter. I think the thing that really counts is whether we are open to the Spirit. The institutional church cannot open the door - but neither can it shut it. "I am he that openeth and no man shutteth."

I shall remain, but I shall not be quiet. I will speak my heartfelt sentiments, I will be honest and I mean to be heard. I will not be scared off or bought off. I am not going anywhere. I am in him, and there I shall remain. I am thrilled that you are in him, unshakeably and irrevocably. Praise His name! With love for you and yours I am always

Yours and HIS,

*Carl*

AN ARO-GRAM